

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05
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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0005
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
US MISSION NATO 3578

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1180

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, US, NL
SUBJ: GON VIEWS ABOUT ELEVATING LONDON NATO MEETING TO SUMMIT LEVEL

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 1302, (B) USNATO 1041

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR NATO AFFAIRS VAN EEKELEN, IN CONVERSATION
WITH POLCOUNS, DISCLOSED THE HAGUE HAS JUST REQUESTED ITS NATO
DELEGATION TO CANVASS VIEWS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS ABOUT ELEVATING
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LONDON NATO MINISTERIAL TO SUMMIT LEVEL.

2. VAN EEKELEN DESCRIBED CURRENT HAGUE THINKING ABOUT THIS
POSSIBILITY AS GENERALLY POSITIVE. NORMALLY, DUTCH WERE
NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUMMITS, GIVEN FREQUENT LACK OF PRE-
PARATION AND RISK OF DISAPPOINTING UNREASONABLY HIGH PUBLIC
EXPECTATIONS.

IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, MFA ANTICIPATED LONDON MEETING, LIKE PREVIOUS MINISTERIALS, WOULD BE WELL PREPARED. MOREOVER, THE HAGUE SAW POSITIVE VALUE IN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETING OF EUROPEAN LEADERS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR LATTER TO CONVEY HIS THINKING DIRECTLY TO NATO PARTNERS ON FULL RANGE OF ISSUES, PARTICULARLY PREPARATIONS FOR BELGRADE AND, MORE GENERALLY, EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

3. VAN EEKELEN TOUCHED ON FAMILIAR POINT THAT UNDER DUTCH CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM FOREIGN MINISTER CARRIES EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUT NOTED HE SAW NO PROBLEM CONSIDERING THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL.

4. VAN EEKELEN ALSO TOUCHED ON WHAT HE CALLED THE FRENCH PROBLEM, MENTIONING THAT, DESPITE INDICATIONS FROM HIS BRITISH CONTACTS THAT GISCARD MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO NATO SUMMIT, DUTCH HAD NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER OF FRENCH DISPOSITION TO SUPPRESS THEIR TRADITIONAL DISLIKE FOR NATO SUMMITS. THIS EXPLAINED, HE SURMISED, SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE IN BRUSSELS.

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